



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,
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POTENTILLA QUINQUEFOLIA **FIVE-LEAF CINQUEFOIL**

Five-leaf Cinquefoil is a perennial with erect or ascending stems that are 5-20 cm high and arising from a branched rootcrown. The numerous basal leaves have slender petioles and 3 or 5 deeply lobed, narrowly elliptic leaflets that are 1-2 cm long and usually pinnately arranged but closely clustered. The 1-2 alternate stem leaves are similar but usually have only 3 leaflets. The stems and lower leaf surfaces are densely covered with long, gray hairs, while the upper surfaces of leaves are covered with sparse, silky hairs. Several stalked flowers are borne in a branched, somewhat crowded inflorescence. The bowl-shaped flowers have 5 broadly lance-shaped, long-hairy sepals that are 3-4 mm long, 5 yellow, oblong petals that are 4-5 mm long with shallowly lobed tips, 20 stamens, and numerous pistils. The slender style has a bumpy, thickened base and is attached near the top of the nearly smooth, brown achene that is 1-2 mm long. Flowering in July, fruiting in August.

POTENTILLA CONCINNA usually has some leaves with 7 leaflets and rarely any with 3; *P. UNIFLORA* rarely has any more than 3 leaflets. A hand lens or microscope and technical key are needed for positive identification.